

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Systems and methods for determining a defect characteristic of a composite structure, such as defect density-per-unit area and/or cumulative. In one preferred embodiment, a method for determining a defect characteristic of a

5 composite structure generally includes: determining a first distance from a first reference point of the composite structure to a defect; determining a second distance from a second reference point of the composite structure to the defect; using the first and second distances to establish a reference area of the composite structure; and considering each defect detected within the reference

10 area and producing therefrom a defect characteristic representative of the composite structure.